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## REPORT (PART II)

ON

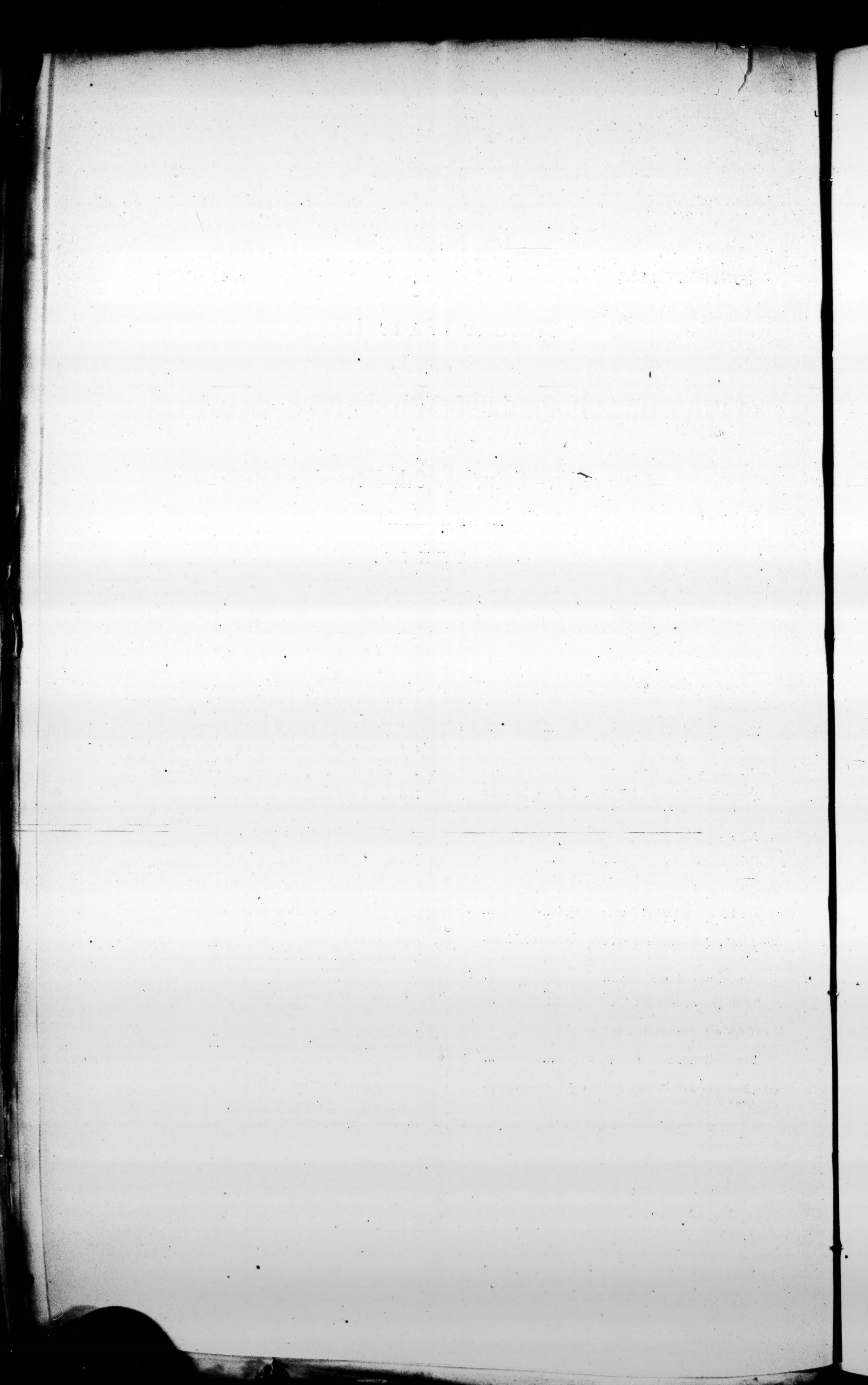
# NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 9th November 1901.

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## II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

## (a)—Police.

2607. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to the conduct of the police in the Bholarai murder case. The *Bholarai* murder case in Mymensingh, and with their police diaries, and remarks that the proved facts of the case go to confirm the general impression that innocent men suffered because their employer had, for some reason or other, incurred the displeasure of the police. It appeals to Mr. Bonham-Carter to take immediate action in regard to the conduct of the offending police officers.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
29th Oct. 1901.

## (b)—Working of the Courts.

2608. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* refers to the case of Umes Mondle and Kanti Maitar, who, after being sentenced by the Sessions Judge of Midnapore to ten years' rigorous imprisonment, appealed to the High Court, where, however, the sentence was enhanced to one of transportation for life. The effect of this decision, says the writer, will be that very few will venture to appeal against the sentences of the lower courts—at least as long as Justices Harington and Gupta are on the Bench,—for their confidence in the administration of justice has been shaken. The *Patrika* will allow that their Lordships were actuated by a stern sense of justice, but asks whether this same sense of justice has ever induced them to reduce the sentence in any case when it has been unduly severe?

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
8th Nov. 1901.

## (c)—Jails.

2609. The *Hindoo Patriot* calls for the revision of the Jail Code, with regard to (1) hours of labour; which ought not to be uniform, but should be fixed according to the status of the prisoner before his incarceration; (2) dieting, which, in the case of better-class Europeans and Eurasians, as well as natives, should be of a better quality; (3) dress, and (4) baths. It would leave the matter of dress to the jail authorities, but urges that prisoners should be given better facility for having their daily baths, which would conduce to good health and keep down sickness and mortality in jails. It promises to deal, in a future issue, with the other matters connected with jails.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
8th Nov. 1901.

## (d)—Education.

2610. The *Bengalee* holds that the arrangement under which senior Professors of Colleges are transferred to the inspecting line is open to serious objection. Their removal is a great loss to the Colleges, and their services are of very little gain in their new department. Mention is made of Professors P. Mukerji and Bepin Behari Gupta, two of the best Professors in the Presidency College, who have been made Inspectors and whose places have been filled by junior men just fresh from College. The officers concerned have lost the opportunity they had of usefully utilising the result of their researches in the particular sciences which they had made the special subject of their studies, and do not find the duties of an Inspector congenial to them.

BENGALEE,  
1st Nov. 1901.

## (e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

2611. Criticising the remark in the Government Resolution on the Administration Report of the Calcutta Municipality for 1900-1901 that there has been an admitted absence of the friction and obstruction which at times marked the proceedings

BENGALEE,  
1st Nov. 1901.

of the Corporation under the former law, the *Bengalee* is bound to say that occasional "friction" and "obstruction" are not necessarily unwholesome, and that a healthy opposition is sometimes necessary to keep the Executive straight. Under the new régime, whatever the Chairman proposes is sanctioned *sans* discussion and *sans* opposition. The Corporation exists merely to register the edicts of the Executive, which is all very fine from the point of view of the Executive. It is bureaucratic government, and not self-government.

The only respect in which the new Corporation has distinguished itself is in the collection of rates and in the rigidity of the unheard-of procedure adopted in some cases. In conservancy or water-supply no improvement is noticeable—at any rate in the native quarter. The wonders which the new law was to usher in its train have yet to make their appearance at the cost of the already overburdened tax-payer.

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4th Nov. 1901.

2612. In a later issue the same journal returns to the subject of the Resolution on the Calcutta Municipality, and, with reference to the absence of obstructiveness on the part of the present Commissioners, which that Resolution commends, points to the Town Hall repairs scandal, the estimates for the Byntolla buildings, and other matters which were brought to light by the late, and some of the most prominent, members of the present Commissioners, and adds:—

"We have written so often upon them that, were it not for the reiteration of the insinuation against the late Commissioners, we would not have taken the trouble to repeat them. These scandals are well known to His Honour. They have been, to our knowledge, condemned by His Honour's trusted councillors, Messrs. Baker and Oldham, who sat on the Corporation. But the Government was determined to give the late Corporation a bad name and to hang it. The Government has the giant's strength; and it was determined to crush the late Corporation, and this was done. But the Government has not raised itself in the estimation of the people, who, however helpless they may be, have a heart to feel the gross and deliberate injustice that has been done on the principle that might is right."

BENGALEE,  
5th Nov. 1901.

2613. Quoting the Government Resolution on the municipal administration of Calcutta for 1900-1901, on the widening of thoroughfares and the imposition of the cost of the same on the rate-payers, the *Bengalee* says that a more inequitable proposal it would be difficult to conceive. It goes on to remark:—

"We should like to enquire as to who is responsible for the present congestion of Calcutta. For the space of nearly a century the Government controlled the municipal affairs of Calcutta; and under the auspices of Government, Barra Bazar grew into existence with all its narrow and dark and intricate lanes. It is now proposed to widen them; and who should pay except those who, by their negligence and ineptitude, contributed to the opening out of such lanes? Barra Bazar is a standing monument of the blundering of Government; and the rate-payers are now called upon to pay for it! The rate-payers might be relieved in a variety of ways; and recommendations to that effect were made by the Building Commission. Among other recommendations, the imposition of an *octroi* and a tax upon jute were suggested. The first is not accepted, because the Chamber of Commerce is opposed to it—and the Chamber now rules the country,—and the second is inadmissible, because the Government of India wants to keep the tax to themselves. So the rate-payers must suffer! This is justice with a vengeance!"

BENGALEE,  
6th Nov. 1901.

2614. The *Bengalee* congratulates Lord Curzon on the inauguration and rehabilitation of an Agricultural Department, but expresses the opinion that the department ought to be invested with larger powers and should rally round it a band of earnest and zealous workers and scientific experts keen upon research and experiment. The department should train up young Indians not only as sowers of seed and ploughers of furrows, but as skilled missionaries to propagate the gospel of agriculture among their less-favoured brethren, helping them in times of need with practical suggestions and expert advice.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

2615. The *Bengalee* regrets that, following in the track of other Indian railway grievances—the Bengal-Nagpur Railway should allow its underlings to be insolent, overbearing and tyrannical. It relates the experiences of one of its correspondents in the course of a journey from Puri to Howrah, which consists of the usual complaints against the Eurasian guard and ticket-collector, and concludes with the following remarks:—

"We have always objected to the employment of brown and tawney-brown ticket-collectors, whose official positions daily bring them in touch with a large section of the Indian public with whom, apparently, they have no sympathy. By training and environment they develop brutal instincts, and are a disgrace to the railway administrations to which they unfortunately belong in large numbers. For the class from which they are recruited we have the highest respect; and, we think, the Eurasian community can do no better than show its sense of righteous indignation by disowning such of its unworthy members as, in the discharge of public duty, forget the sacred obligation that exists between man and man."

(h)—*General.*

2616. Writing on the subject of the proposal to raise a fitting memorial to commemorate the rule of Sir A. P. MacDonnell in the North-Western Provinces, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* makes some observations on the fate of

Mr. Cotton, Lord Ripon, and some District Judges who showed their love for the Indians or exposed the abuses of the administration. It was different with Sir Antony MacDonnell. He tried to serve the people and, at the same time, to keep himself well with his brethren. There is no doubt of it that he introduced order in a province where almost anarchy prevailed. If police rule is felt keenly in all parts of India, nowhere is it more acutely felt than in the North-Western Provinces, and the retiring Lieutenant-Governor waged war against the police throughout his career. That alone, says the writer, entitles him to a statue.

2617. The *Bengalee* draws the Viceroy's attention to the fact that the Director of Land Records refused to allow the officers of the Settlement Department the usual *puja* vacation this year, and hopes that some sort of compensation will be made to the officers concerned, who were chained to their work, disappointed and disheartened.

2618. The same journal complains that, like Mr. Chalmers of the Bengal Secretariat Press, Mr. Ross of the Central Press, appears to be another officer who delights in making his rule felt by his subordinates. It alleges that during 1900-1901 nearly Rs. 13,000 were realised by fines, and for the first six months of the current year over Rs. 7,500 have been realised similarly, and that more than 4,000 men have left the Press on account of the hardship of the service. In these circumstances, it hopes that the matter will not escape the notice of the Press Account Committee, which will shortly hold its sittings, and of the Department of Finance and Commerce which controls the affairs of the press.

2619. Noticing the falling off in the number of successful Indian candidates at the Indian Civil Service examinations for the last few years, the *Bengalee* attempts to determine the cause and, unwilling to believe that there has been a substantial falling off in the quality of the Indian candidates, or a substantial improvement in the quality of their English rivals, remarks:—

"We are inclined to think that there is a growing tendency to set questions from the English point of view and suited to the educational standard followed in English universities and public schools. For instance, in the papers on Greek and Roman History, Greek and Latin passages are quoted, and the candidates are expected to understand them and to explain them. Again, in the papers on Philosophy, Aristotle is quoted in the original, and the candidates are required to understand the passages and discuss them. It will be seen at once that the

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most distinguished student of the Calcutta University, who may have made a special study of History and Philosophy, would be unequal to a test of this kind, whereas an English candidate, brought up in any of the English universities, who may have an indifferent knowledge of History and Philosophy, and may be infinitely inferior to the Indian candidate in respect of his acquirements in History and Philosophy, may beat him in the competition by answering questions which require a knowledge of Greek and Latin rather than History or Philosophy. We ask—is this fair to the Indian candidate? Is it even consistent with the ends of an examination in History and Philosophy? What is tested in an examination in History and Philosophy is apparently a knowledge of Greek and Latin with only a superficial acquaintance with the subjects themselves. The Indian candidate is dreadfully handicapped in more ways than one. The marks in Sanskrit and Arabic are only 500, whereas the marks in Greek and Latin are 750. It is quite true that the examinations in Greek and Latin are much stiffer than what they are in Arabic and Sanskrit; but that is, again, for the benefit of the English candidates. The examinations are made specially easy for them to enable them to take up these subjects just a year or two before they appear as candidates. We have not the smallest objection to the examinations in Arabic and Sanskrit being made as severe as in Latin and Greek, and the marks raised to the same level. We should rejoice if this were done."

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PATRIKA,  
31st Oct. 1901.

2620. With reference to the Government's refusal to allow Ram Charitter to prosecute Mr. E. C. Ryland, late District Superintendent of Police, Patna, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*

Mr. E. C. Ryland and Ram Charitter. *Patrika* remarks that the precautions taken by the Government to protect the persons of officials shows that it knows that the latter do more than punish the guilty and protect the innocent, and that the work of the administration is not carried on solely in the interests of the people, but sometimes against their interests.

In rejecting the very just request of Ram Charitter, the Government, it says, is not aware of the fact that if the officials have their rights, the people also have theirs. It wonders the Government does not hide its face in shame when it gives such incontestable proof of the allegation that the three hundred millions of Indians are governed in the interest of few thousand officials.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
1st Nov. 1901.

2621. The Chapra correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* gives three cases of illegalities committed by the Certificate Administration of certificate laws in the mafassal.

*Patrika* Department of Saran, whereby unfortunate people were needlessly harrassed and put to expense, and asks why such a young officer as Mr. J. Byrne, c.s., should be put in charge of so important a department when native Deputy Collectors, far more experienced, are available for the work.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
1st Nov. 1901.

2622. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* points to the testimony borne by the witnesses who were examined before the Irrigation Commission as to the maladministration of *takavi* advances, and says that it has over and over reiterated that the remedy against famine is the advance of *takavies* to raiyats as soon as the first symptoms of distress are visible amongst them. This, however, is never done, with the result that when advances are made, the raiyat has lost his cattle, seed and almost all his earthly belongings and devotes the money obtained, not in raising crops, but in feeding himself and his family in order to save their lives.

AMRITA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
2nd Nov. 1901.

2623. The following paragraph is taken from the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*:—  
The administration of the Arms Act. The severity with which cases under the Arms Act are disposed of produces a chilling effect upon the natives of the soil. Here is the report of a case published in our yesterday's issue:—

"On Wednesday before Mr. Abdur Rahim, the Northern Division Presidency Magistrate, Inspector Bejoyendra Lall Mitter charged one Chandi Churn Nandi, of No. 3, Muchua Bazar Street, with keeping a revolver without license. Babu N. L. Dey, for the defence, submitted that the gun did not belong to his client. It was kept with him by a friend of his. The court observed that it was no excuse, and after having examined some witnesses for the prosecution, fined the accused Rs. 20."

"It is only in India that the possession of arms without license constitutes a criminal offence, so far as the Indians are concerned. But if this man-made law is severe, the manner in which it is administered makes it an object of terror to the people. It is such laws, which create an impression in the minds of the natives of the soil, that, in spite of their professions to the contrary, the rulers of the land cherish a distrust for them in the heart of their hearts."

Highhandedness of Hindu officials at the Dashara procession in Bhadrak.

2624. The *Moslem Chronicle* writes as MOSLEM CHRONICLE,  
2nd Nov. 1901.

"We are in receipt of a telegram from Bhadrak, which makes startling disclosures about the highhandedness of Hindu officials nowadays so often finding their way to the newspaper columns. It runs as follows:—

"During Dashara, Subdivisional Officer, Bhadrak, ordered *baja* to be played before Bhadrak mosque, and forcibly, under section 17, Act V of 1891, made constables some rigid Muhammadans, amongst whom was a blind man, and took them with the procession. He violated the long-established custom through malice. Great injustice and *zulum* were also observed in him upon our religion. Crave inquiry and justice immediately."

"This is a striking illustration of the fact that the interests of the Muhammadan subjects cannot be entrusted safely into the hands of Hindu officials, who will most naturally ignore all considerations when a question of sect arise. The authority vested with the Hindu Magistrates has often been abused and employed as an instrument for tyrannizing the helpless Muhammadans whom the Government has placed under their care. The Hindu officials, being under the cover of law, safely satisfy their racial rancour with impunity whenever a suitable opportunity presents itself. Often the Hindu Subdivisional Officers, Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of Police perpetrate such grossly outrageous actions out of racial considerations as their stories, if told, will horrify the public. All that happens is never brought to light. Instances which now and then force their way out through the imperfect state of journalism in this country are not sufficient to draw the attention of the Government. But Muhammadans will endure patiently everything, with the exception of any interference in their religious prejudice which they hold dearer than even their lives."

"When the state of affairs are such, Muhammadans have nothing left but to approach the Government with their grievances, which if properly brought to the notice of our benign ruler, will surely meet His Honour's careful attention. Sir John Woodburn is not likely to look over these things and allow the perpetrators of such deeds to commit anything that will break the harmony of his régime."

"In the present, can we draw the attention of the Commissioner of Orissa and the Magistrate of Balasore, who will, we hope, take prompt steps and enquire into the matter?"

2625. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* compares the criminal laws of the ancient Hindu law-givers, which were accepted by the Moslem rulers, and those of the present system, as well as their administration, much to the detriment of the existing conditions, and concludes with the following remarks:—

"It is, of course, not possible for our rulers to revert to the old order of things. But they can very much lessen the rigour of the relentless nature of the present system of criminal administration. In the place of panchayets they can introduce trial by jury everywhere. Then, the Police have now the privilege of dragging any man they like with impunity. The Magistrates and Judges, in the same manner, have the privilege of inflicting punishments upon innocent persons, and the parties suffering wrongs at their hands have no remedy whatever. Some provision may be made to the effect that whenever any person is needlessly put to trouble by the Police, or the Magistrate, or the Judge, those officers will be liable for some sort of punishment. In this way the Police, the Magistrate, and the Judge may be made more careful than they are. And, above all, the judiciary may be placed in the same independent

AMRITA BASAR  
PATRIKA,  
7th Nov. 1901.

The old and new criminal laws and their administration.

footing as it is in England. Here the Executive rules and the judiciary obeys. This is the root of the evil; and unless it is removed, the criminal administration will go on emasculating the nation and eating into its vitals as it is doing now."

BENGALEE,  
11th Nov. 1901.

2626. The *Bengalee* again devotes over a column in enumerating a few of the specimens of Mr. Chalmers's vagaries with which it has been supplied, which bear ample testimony to his want of foresight and want of sympathy, and, in view of the growing discontent among the compositors employed under him, hopes that the present Financial Secretary, like Mr. Baker of old, will be graciously pleased to lend a willing and sympathetic ear to their tales of woe and stay the erring hand of Mr. Chalmers.

### III.—LEGISLATION.

BENGALEE,  
4th Nov. 1901.

2627. Commenting on the Frontier Murderous Outrages Regulations which have just been passed, the *Bengalee* says:—  
The new Frontier Murderous Outrages Regulations.

"We are bound to observe that the law is really cruel, inasmuch as it enacts that the offender is liable to be flogged before he is hanged, his family property is liable to confiscation, and, as in the rude primitive days of old, his community has been made to suffer for his delicts. The crime, which Ghaziism contemplates, is savage in all conscience; and even though the cult of Ghaziism sanctions the most cruel absurdities, we feel constrained to observe that the fair fame of British justice and equity is likely to be sullied in view of its association with the body of legal enactments which should find a fitting place in the statute book of the barbarous Turk."

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2628. The *Bengalee* reverts to this subject, and, especially criticising sections 2, 3 and 5 describes the provisions as a whole as worthy of an Aurangzeb or an Abdur Rahaman than a British Viceroy, but does not find fault with the rigorous character of the measure which is designed to deal with a people with whom severity passes for strength and leniency for weakness. At the same time it repeats there is something incongruous in such a regulation being enacted under the auspices of a Government whose notion of justice would suffer ninety-nine persons to escape, but would be shocked at the punishment of a single innocent person.

### IV.—NATIVE STATES.

HINDOO PATRIOT,  
29th Nov. 1901.

2629. The *Hindoo Patriot* is glad to see that His Highness the Nizam is taking active measures for carrying out financial and other reforms in his State.

The Berar revenue requires the special attention of Mr. Carson-Walker, for whose services the Nizam has applied. Among the changes in the administration which have been made, the *Patriot* congratulates the Nizam's Government on the substitution of native agency in place of European. It holds that there is now no longer any necessity for appointing Europeans in Native States, and that the practice might be abolished safely—"Hyderabad for the Hyderabadies" should be the order of the day, and the ruler of the proudest Native State in India is recommended to act on this suggestion.

BENGALEE,  
3rd Nov. 1901.

2630. The *Bengalee* holds that the financial affairs of the Patiala State being in such a deplorable condition, the creation of the new Political Agency for the Phulkian States, which will control the proceedings of the Council of Regency in Patiala, is open to exception. Patiala will, during the minority of the young Prince, practically cease to be a Native State. It will, to all intents and purposes, be a district of the Punjab, governed by Englishmen, and in accordance with English methods. This is a new form of temporary annexation for which the *Bengalee* cannot find the smallest justification.

### V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BENGALEE,  
8th Nov. 1901.

2631. The following is taken from the Chapra correspondent's letter to the *Bengalee*:—  
Agricultural outlook in Saran.

"The Hathia rains have failed at last, and a big famine now stares us in the face. The market is rising rapidly, and

ordinary rice is even now selling at 8 seers for the rupee, which is quite unprecedented. If this state of things continues, there will be a frightful mortality and untold misery."

2632. The following is taken from the *Bengalee's Diamond Harbour correspondent* :—

*Distress in Diamond Harbour.*

"Rice is selling very dear, and most of the people of this subdivision are starving. Thousands of beggars are loitering from door to door, and their very appearance—skeletons as they are—would move the most cruel-hearted. It is now time that the kindly-disposed men should come forward to help them."

BENGALEE,  
3rd Nov. 1901.

#### VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

2633. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* finds fault with the *Bengalee* for trumpet-

The Muhammadans and the Congress. ing the so-called success of the Congress mission to Bankipore and Bhagalpur, which had the effect of inviting Muhammadan opposition. The com-

munity should have been left severely alone, and they would have found no opportunity of raising the present standard of opposition or of decrying the movement in the manner they are doing.

The *Patrika*, however, wishes them success in the organization they have started, but thinks that it is quite possible for them to serve the interests of their own community in their own way, without trying to injure the Congress.

2634. The *Hindoo Patriot* cites the following disadvantages under which Attorneyship examination. candidates for admission as Articled Clerks labour :—

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HINDOO PATRIOT,  
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(1) The heavy fee of Rs. 500 which is required for their enrolment ; which should be reduced to a sum within the reach of all candidates ; (2) the exorbitant fees charged at the intermediate and final examinations, which should be abolished and, instead, a large fee should be charged those candidates only who pass the examination ; (3) the long period of their clerkship, which, it is suggested, should be reduced from five to three years, and, lastly, the absence of any opportunity of hearing lectures on subjects in which they undergo instruction.

The foregoing suggestions are offered for the consideration of the Attorney Association, who are invited to place them before the Hon'ble Judges.

OFFICE OF THE INSPE.-GENERAL  
OF POLICE, L. P.,  
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,  
The 9th November 1901.

H. B. ST. LEGER,  
Asst. to the Insp. - General of Police, L. P.

• 500 •

1888-1890

Amherstianus n. sp. male  
♂ ad. ad. No  
Amherstianus